REACH HIGHER

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation

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READ MORE PAGE 2.

ANOTHER GREAT SCHOOL YEAR AWAITS! LEFonline.org

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THANK YOU LEF GOLF SCRAMBLE

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Thank you to the following businesses, teams, and individuals who donated and sponsored our event this year. We couldn't do it without you and truly appreciate your support!

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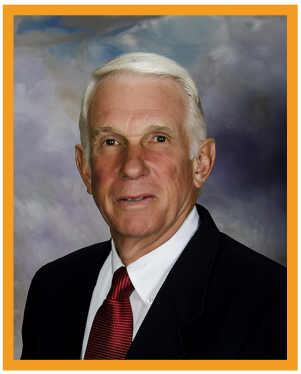
Excellent schools are the foundation of excellent communities. When you invest in Lakeshore Public Schools through the LEF, you are investing in the quality of life in our community both today and tomorrow.

LEF ALL VOLUNTEER BOARD

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO



J.C. Anderson, Chairman

With each publication of the Lakeshore Light, I challenge myself to develop an interesting and informative letter to keep you abreast of the actions of the LEF. In the past, I have covered topics such as our budget process, our three fundraisers, the importance of DEI, our major projects, our student/teacher grant process, and other relevant subjects. In this letter, I would like to recognize our LEF Board of Trustees and the effort they have extended to help make the LEF successful over the past several years.

Leslie Arbanas
Ryan Arnt
Meghan Bacin
Sophie Bauchet
Ludo Beaufils
Kate Beckrow
Kelly Bushu
Zeb Deitrich
Chad Deja
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Greg Eding
Andrew Glisson
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Alaina Kinney
Lori Marciniak
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To fully understand and appreciate what this group accomplishes, we must go back approximately 10 years and reflect upon the situation. At that time, with our bylaws allowing 21 Board members, we had only 13 on the Board, and only about 8 of the members were "active" and fully engaged in the fundraising focus of the LEF. Since then, we have made a concerted effort to recruit Board members who truly understand our fundraising mission, bring critical skills to the Board that we were missing (e.g., marketing), and understand and are willing to commit the time. In fact, at that time, we considered the items below to be part of our strategic objectives that, if accomplished, would form the basis for a successful LEF organization.

- Recruit a diverse group of Board members who are interested in and passionate about Lakeshore students and their education.
- Recruit diverse Board members who understand the fundraising focus and the time commitment required each month.
- Recruit diverse Board members who bring critical skills needed for the LEF organization.
- Eventually, due to LEF's successes, the LEF is approached by individuals wanting to assist.

As we look back on these strategic items, I feel especially pleased with the LEF Board of Trustees that we have assembled! I feel that each member brings a passion for students and their education and certainly understands our critical role as the fundraising arm for Lakeshore Public Schools. We can always use more expertise, but we have come a long way in our marketing, finance, fundraising, and project management skills. It appears that the word is getting out regarding some of the positive things that the LEF is doing for the students and their education, as we have had several recent Board members actually request to join.

All of us work as volunteers; we are not paid one penny for the LEF work that we do, so the overall expense base of the LEF is relatively low compared to the funds that we are able to raise.

So, why have I chosen to use this Chairman's Letter to go on and on about the LEF Board of Trustees? As I mentioned, we can always use more "feet on the floor" volunteers in our fundraising efforts. Fundraising is all about the individual networks that we each have established with our family, friends, neighbors, and work colleagues.

Please consider this an invitation to explore potential opportunities on the LEF Board. Give me a call at 269-921-2513 or email me at anderjcna@gmail.com to discuss further. I look forward to our conversation.

Sincerely,

J.C. Anderson
Chair, LEF

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in Action:

LAKESHORE STUDENTS MEET INDUSTRY LEADERS IN DETROIT

Lakeshore High School English teacher and LEF Trustee, Alaina Kinney, and Dean of Students, Danny Thompson took students from the Diversity and Prism Clubs to Detroit. The trip was made possible by Jim Roberts and the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation as part of the organization's efforts to support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Lakeshore Public Schools.

DEI and PRISM Students visit Detroit.

In the morning, the students were privileged to meet with Marcus Lewis, owner of Full View Productions, and Abriana Walton, a producer at the same company. They were joined by Travis Spencer, head of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion at Ford Motor Company. In the afternoon, the students were able to speak with Charity Dean, president/CEO of the Michigan Black Business Alliance, and Kaiwan Bowman, Chief Operating Officer of the MBAA.

At both places, the students were immersed in rich conversations with the business experts as they described their jobs and the importance that minority-owned businesses have on the local and global economy. A main focus of the

Lakeshore students experience an eye-opening trip to Detroit, meeting industry leaders and exploring careers in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). From inspiring talks with Marcus Lewis and Charity Dean to hands-on learning at Full View Productions, the journey highlights the impact of minority-owned businesses and the importance of inclusivity in today's world.

Continued NEXT PAGE

Continued DEI to Detroit

conversations was showcasing the resilience and innovation of minority entrepreneurs in Detroit as well as throughout Michigan and the country, along with the vital role that inclusivity plays in the entire business world. Some students already had an interest in pursuing careers in the DEI space and this trip allowed them to speak to people currently doing the work they want to do in the future. Graduated senior, Mia Norbey said, "It was inspiring hearing about the tangible, positive difference investing in and supporting minority-owned businesses can make on communities."

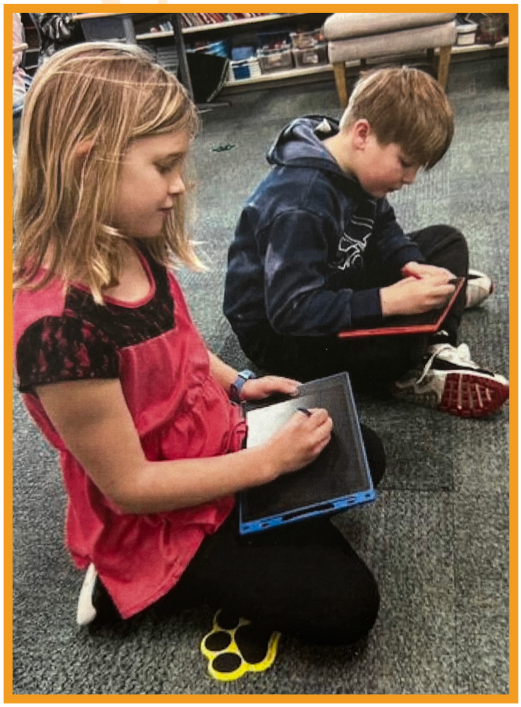
While students were at Full View Productions, they were taken on a tour through the workshop area where they saw everything that went into creating a professional production: cameras, props, and even cutting-edge computer technology. This enabled students to see the role their passions and interests can play in their future.

"I've had a lot of trouble allowing myself to be an artist, not really knowing if it would be a reliable career. But listening to Abrianna Walton talk about how she's done it really helped me think about it in a different, more beneficial light," said Piper Josimovich, senior and co-president of Prism.

Kinney said, "Any time we can show our students potential career paths that allow them to pursue their interests and make a positive difference in the world is exciting. This trip allowed them to see how a diversity of backgrounds and ideas is so important to success in today's world and will hopefully inspire them to continue their journey for advocacy, inclusion, and creativity."

Grants in Action -
LEF Purchases Writing Tablets for Hollywood 2nd Graders

We received a kind note of thanks from Pam McLean, 2nd Grade Teacher at Hollywood Elementary, after we fulfilled a grant request to purchase 90 new LCD writing tablets.



2nd graders enjoy using their new writing tablets.

"These tablets have been used during our phonics, writing, and math instruction this year. The students have enjoyed the ability to get their thoughts written down quickly, share their ideas, and erase and go on to the next problem. The teachers have appreciated how mess-free these writing tablets are! We will be able to use these writing tablets for years to come. Thank you again for your generosity."
Pam McLean, 2nd Grade Teacher
Hollywood Elementary

LEF Kindergarten Books Initiative

Lakeshore Kindergarten and Young Fives students were greeted with excitement prior to the first days of school, thanks to a special reading goody bag provided by the LEF. This thoughtful gesture added a touch of joy to their initial school experience, helping to spark a love for learning right from the start. We are thrilled to support and celebrate these young learners as they embark on their educational journey!

Lakeshore's 2024 Distinguished Alumni

JOE JEWELL, PH.D.

National Leader In Aeronautics and Astronautics Hypersonic Research

Joe Jewell, Ph.D.'s, family roots run deep in southwest Michigan – much like his resume runs long with prestigious national scientific appointments and educational accolades. The 2000 graduate of Lakeshore High School, and John Bogdanoff Associate Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University, has served on NATO science and engineering panels and has authored more than 70 technical papers on everything from rocket propulsion and hypersonic aerodynamics to even a bestselling SAT study book. Dr. Jewell is currently the Director of the Boeing-AFOSR Mach 6 quiet wind tunnel and HYPULSE reflected shock/expansion tunnel, where he replicates MACH 40 conditions and studies the aerodynamics of spacecraft re-entering our atmosphere. But out of all the awards and recognition, Dr. Jewell says being named Lakeshore's Distinguished Alumni is one of the most significant.

*Jewell, seen here with the burst metal disc that initiates the shock tunnel test. *Picture credit - Purdue: Charles Jischke*

"It's special because it comes from where I'm from, and because so many members of my family are Lakeshore alumni," says Dr. Jewell. "It's not an accident that I could work pretty much anywhere, but I choose to teach at a university that is two hours from Stevensville and that's a big part of it for me. I really value coming from a small town. I think that is a core part of who I am. Both of my parents went to Lakeshore."

Dr. Joe Jewell, a 2000 Lakeshore High School graduate and Purdue University professor, has made notable contributions to aeronautics with over 70 technical papers and leading research at the Boeing-AFOSR Mach 6 wind tunnel. Honored as Lakeshore's Distinguished Alumni, he values his small-town roots and impactful experiences in the Lakeshore Band program.

Dr. Jewell's father is the late Stephen Jewell, former long-time News Editor for the Herald Palladium. His mother, Suzanne Jewell (née Kramer) is the daughter of Dorothy Kramer, who graduated from what was then Stevensville High School. All four of Dr. Jewell's grandparents also graduated from area high schools. In fact, Dr. Jewell says they can trace his Berrien County family ties back to a Cavalry Regiment in the Civil War. In all his work at the University of Oxford and the California Institute of Technology, Dr. Jewell never lost sight of the important lessons he learned from growing up in a small town. He shared these insights with graduating seniors during his speech at the commencement ceremony.

Joe Jewell with his parents, Stephen and Suzanne Jewell, and sister, Elizabeth

Continued NEXT PAGE

"We only get one life to live and I'm happy mine has gone the way it has," says Dr. Jewell.

"I'd rather have that small-town background and the sense of continuity. The benefits of that stay with you forever. We have a close-knit community and I think that matters a lot. I think people can come from Lakeshore and do anything. The things that the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation does, and programs like the Math and Science Center have done for even longer, work to make up some of the gaps that might exist between someone from southwest Michigan and someone else from a big city."

While he's thankful to have benefitted from being part of Lakeshore's Math and Science Center, which prepared him for his college experience, Dr. Jewell says it was music and the Band program that ultimately determined the trajectory of his life.

"I was involved in band all the way through school and Mrs. VK [VonKoenig] had a profound impact on me," says Dr. Jewell. "When I look back at my school years, I think more of the home that music gave me, not just at Lakeshore with the Marching Band, but at other places. It's always been important for me to have something besides academics, science, and engineering. I don't think you can be a whole person without some appreciation for and involvement in the Arts."

Dr. Jewell was nominated for Lakeshore's Distinguished Alumni award by former Lakeshore Band Teacher and Band Director, Lori VonKoenig, and former classmate and current Band Teacher, Band Director, and friend, Matt Pagel. Dr. Jewell chose VonKoenig to accompany him to the White House to meet President Bill Clinton in 2000, after winning the Presidential Scholar Award, where he represented Michigan as the top male high school graduate.

"Joe is one of the most distinguished alumni Lakeshore has ever had," says VonKoenig. "Joe was an outstanding percussionist and leader in our band program. His amazing accomplishments are the result of his incredible work ethic, outstanding character, and wonderful family."

Jewell as part of his Lakeshore Band days

Joe Jewell (second from left) and Matt Pagel (far right) during Lakeshore High School Band days

Help us honor exceptional graduates by nominating candidates for the Distinguished Alumni Award. Submit nominations at lefonline.org by December 15 each year; they remain under review for three years and can be resubmitted. The nomination period closes annually in December and reopens in September. We keep the recipient's identity a secret until commencement, where they will be celebrated with a reception and will address the graduating class. Thank you for helping us recognize our outstanding alumni!

LEF Helps Advance the

MACHINE TOOL PROGRAM AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Machinists help create our world. Without them, the bolts, pistons, or other elements that make our machinery run wouldn't be possible. At Lakeshore, our CTE machine tool students are developing the skills highly sought after by local machine shops and now, they have one more reason to be hired – learning with the latest technology, operating brand-new CNC machines.

Machinists use a wide variety of tools, from a lathe tool to machinist blocks and CNC machines – computer numerically controlled machines. These machines follow a computer program that tells them when to change out tools, controls the speed, and performs all the necessary steps to create the part. The machinist is the person who sets up the machine and tools; they also program and machine the parts on the CNC machine. CNC machines have made a huge difference in what machinists can accomplish with modern equipment and cutting-edge technology. As a part of the $1 million commitment from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, new CNC machines have been purchased for $80,000, providing more learning opportunities for the students in this program.

Since reinstating the machine tool classes in 2016, Brad Smith, machining and CAD teacher, has seen an increase of interest from students wanting to explore careers in manufacturing. "CNC Programming and Machining are skills sought after by local Machine shops. Our goal is to build the skills of the students to make them more employable," said Brad Smith. "The CNC machines that were purchased are not replacing any other machines. They are here to give the students new opportunities to learn how to program and operate CNC machines."

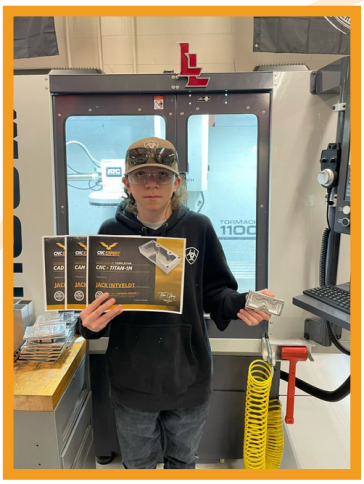
With the use of the new CNC machines and a curriculum called *Titans of CNC*, students can earn certifications in Part Design, Part Programming (CAM), and Part Creation (CNC). Through this curriculum, students learn the computer interface so they can navigate the menus on the CNC, along with basic machining skills that can be transferred between manual machines and the CNC, such as squaring a vise, edge finding, print reading, measuring, and cutting tool knowledge. Students can design and manufacture their own parts for personal use or make one from a print. As these parts are completed, students are encouraged to enter their projects into the annual Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society (MITES) metalworking contest, where they have an opportunity to earn awards and scholarships.

Continued NEXT PAGE

We are proud to equip our CTE machine tool students with the skills and technology to shape the future. With state-of-the-art CNC machines, students gain hands-on experience in modern manufacturing, setting them on a path to exciting careers. Supported by the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation, these young machinists are not just learning to create parts—they're building their futures.

MACHINE TOOL PROGRAM

The Lakeshore Excellence Foundation has purchased new CNC machines for $80,000, providing enhanced learning opportunities for students.



Like most of the Lakeshore CTE programs currently available, the machine tool program is made up of 85% Lakeshore students, the rest being other Berrien County students.

"We have seen an increase in students' interest in this program, and we are hopeful that the new CNCs and new curriculum will attract more students next year," said Brad Smith.

The career opportunities are great for students with knowledge of CNC programming and operation. Over the next 10 years, the U.S. is expected to need about 44,100 machinists and tool and die makers per year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wages for machinists continue to rise as well. Students can earn about $50,000 directly out of high school with the skills learned in Lakeshore's machine tool CTE program, and we have many machine shops and manufacturing plants in our region. According to American Machinist publication, nearly 70% of the current machinist workforce is over the age of 45, which means there is a great need for younger workers over the next 20 years.

Students with an interest in engineering and robotics should also take advantage of the machine tool class. Not only does the program provide students with transferable skills, but it also offers exposure to companies that provide engineering internships and engineering apprenticeships.

Contact Brad Smith or your student's guidance counselor to learn more.

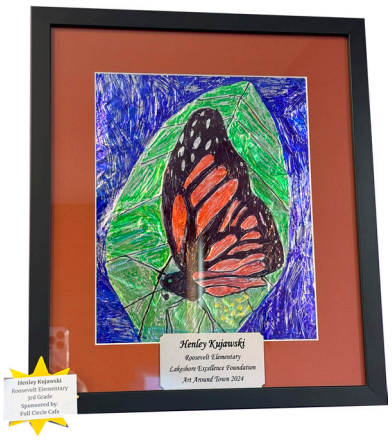
Lakeshore's CTE machine tool students are mastering the latest technology with new CNC machines, thanks to an $80,000 investment from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. These advanced tools, essential in modern manufacturing, offer students hands-on experience in CNC programming and machining, making them highly employable. With a curriculum that includes certifications in Part Design, Part Programming, and Part Creation, students are well-prepared for future careers in manufacturing and engineering.

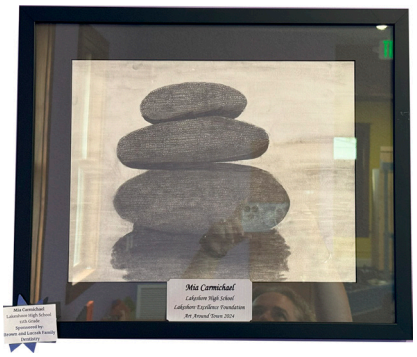
The Lakeshore Public Schools community is a wonderful area to live, work, raise your children, and an EXCELLENT place for education. Thank you for your generosity.

Celebrating Student Creativity:

ART AROUND TOWN HONORS YOUNG ARTISTS

Twenty students from Lakeshore Public Schools were honored as part of the LEF-sponsored Art Around Town event showcasing their artistic talents. All three elementary schools, Lakeshore Middle School, and Lakeshore High School were represented. The students' artwork was on display in the Curious Kids' Museum for one special evening, where parents, family, friends, and the artists themselves could be recognized for their outstanding achievements.





Our thanks to the three celebrity judges for this year's event: LEF Board Member and Curious Kids' Director Lori Marciniak; Julie Nitz from JLN Studio; and multidimensional artist Chris Stanckowickz. The judges chose this year's highlighted winners from countless entries picked by each school for the competition. Every Art Around Town piece is sponsored and displayed at an area business for the remainder of the year.

We also thank the businesses supporting our event. A very special thank you goes to our event organizers, Art Around Town Co-Chairs Jill Phenegar and Lauren Roberto, who spend countless hours bringing everything together to support our students and the fine arts!

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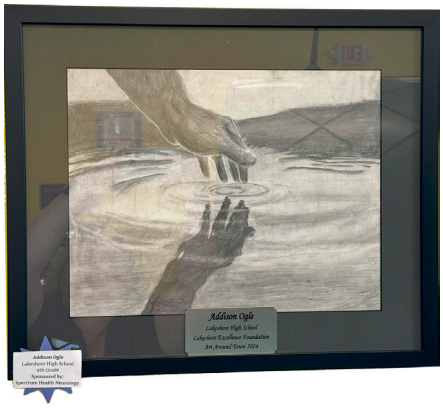
MORE ART ON BACK COVER OF LEF NEWSLETTER



Art Around Town Winners and Business/School Sponsors

Lucas Lange	Stewart Elementary	Austin Tax & Financial
Ether Jackson	Stewart Elementary	Bit of Swiss
Camryn Winsman	Roosevelt Elementary	Boss Services
Drake Florian	Hollywood Elementary	Brown and Luczak Family Dentistry
Juliette Dommer	Hollywood Elementary	Brown and Luczak Family Dentistry
Ovee Makode	Roosevelt Elementary	Brown and Luczak Family Dentistry
Mia Carmichael	Lakeshore High School	Brown and Luczak Family Dentistry
Charolette Stotmeister	Lakeshore Middle School	Brown and Luczak Family Dentistry
Wylie Walker	Stewart Elementary	Carole Fetke
Elena Rodriguez-Alverto	Lakeshore Middle School	Friends of the Lincoln Township Library
Henley Kujawski	Roosevelt Elementary	Full Circle Cafe
Jaxon Scienski	Roosevelt Elementary	Honor Credit Union
Nicole Nedoba	Lakeshore Middle School	Mead and White
Samantha Little	Lakeshore High School	Priebe's Creative Woodworking
Olivia Holmes	Hollywood Elementary	Red Coach Donuts
Alaina Bradley	Lakeshore High School	Scott Berry Promotions
Addison Ogle	Lakeshore High School	Spectrum Health Neurology
Diane Dohn	Lakeshore Middle School	Sturgis Bank and Trust
Morgan McGovern	Lakeshore High School	Superintendent Greg Eding's Office
Kinsey Alphenaar	Stewart Elementary	Superintendent Greg Eding's Office

Congratulations

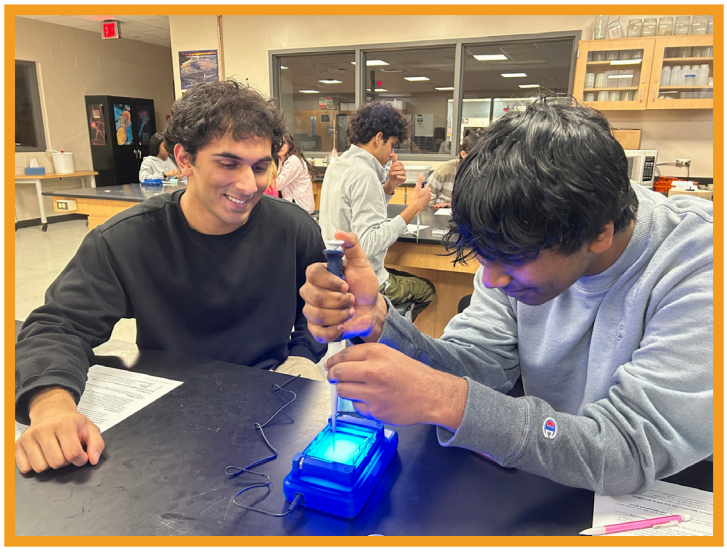
TEAM LANCE-A-BOT

Congratulations to Team Lance-a-Bot on making it to the World's Championship in Houston!

Congratulations to Team Lance-a-Bot #4237 on their incredible achievement of making it to the World's Championship in Houston from April 17 to April 20, 2024! Competing at such a prestigious level is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and teamwork exhibited by all the members of the team. During the competition, Team Lance-a-Bot ranked 23rd in the DALY Division. This impressive performance reflects their resilience and determination in the face of challenging competition. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and excited to see what the future holds for these talented students. Well done, Team Lance-a-Bot!

AP Biology Students

EXPLORE BIOTECHNOLOGY



Lakeshore High School AP Biology classes took part in biotechnology labs thanks to a generous donation from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. Students carried out a bacterial transformation lab by inserting a jellyfish gene into E. coli to make it glow. Then, students were able to perform polymerase chain reaction and gel electrophoresis in order to sequence a gene that contributes to their circadian rhythm and influences if they are a morning or night person.

LHS Chorale and Bella Voce Shine at State Festival in New LEF-Funded Uniforms

Lakeshore High School's Chorale and Bella Voce Girls' Honors Choir competed in the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) State High School Solo & Ensemble Festival, donning new competition outfits provided by the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

The two choirs advanced to the state competition at Allendale High School after qualifying at the High School District Festival. Both groups delivered outstanding performances, earning the highest rating possible. They showcased their talent by performing two songs each, followed by a music sight-reading segment.

"The new choir uniforms made possible by the LEF are a breath of fresh air," said LHS Choir Director David Gailey. "They are elegant, comfortable, and machine washable. We are very thankful to the LEF for their generosity, and we look forward to using the new uniforms often and for many years to come."

Congratulations to the LHS Choirs for their exceptional achievement!

REACH HIGHER

Lakeshore Excellence Foundation

Sister School Exchange Program –

A GLOBAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

In 2018, Lakeshore High School started the Sister School Exchange Program to help students learn about the different cultures in an increasingly interconnected world. As the 2023 – 2024 school year allowed for the third group to go through this program, Lakeshore High School students travelled to Germany in March for an almost three-week experience.

When the German students who visited in September had an action-packed two weeks, the Lakeshore students had the opportunity to extend their trip. They spent five days exploring some of Germany's most historical locations and cultural experiences before traveling to Mönchengladbach to live with their host families for the remainder of the trip.

These events were coordinated by Amy Perkins and Danielle Plichta, the Co-Directors of the Sister School Exchange Program, along with some input from the students. "At the beginning of the program, we provide the students three trip options to experience before we arrive in Mönchengladbach. They, as a group, get to decide and this year, they chose to spend their extra time exploring Munich, Germany with a day trip to Salzburg, Austria," said Ms. Perkins. Their experiences included a guided bike tour and culinary tour around Munich, a private tour of the Residenz Palace, the Deutsches Museum, BMW World Museum and a tour of the ever-infamous Nazi concentration camp and museum, Dachau.

"Spending time in Germany as a high school student can be transformative. Beyond the language skills, cultural immersion fosters a global perspective. Students gain an appreciation for different customs and traditions, realizing both the unique aspects of German life and the surprising similarities that connect people across borders. This broadened view can leave a lasting impact, shaping them into more open-minded and adaptable young adults," said Ms. Perkins.

The exchange program is a great opportunity for both German and American students. It is a chance for the students to learn about each other's cultures and to make lifelong friendships.

When the students arrive in Mönchengladbach, they reconnect with their German exchange student and spend the remaining weeks with them and their families. The students attend classes at Gesamtschule Hardt (School), which is very different from Lakeshore High School, being more modern with an open campus and flexible school schedule throughout the week. On the weekends, the students explore the area around Mönchengladbach eating local foods. Participant Wil Bacin's host family was Turkish and celebrated Ramadan while he was with them. While Wil did not fast with the family, learning about their customs and the meaning behind Ramadan gave him a greater appreciation to his German exchange student, Mesut and his family.

Continued NEXT PAGE

"This trip was life-changing for multiple reasons," says Paige Benedict, a junior who participated in this year's program. "Getting to experience living and going to school in a different country that I have never before gone to or known much about really pushed me out of my comfort zone. Getting to travel to other places in Germany and other countries nearby was something I will forever be grateful for!"

Lakeshore students must apply to be selected for the Sister School Exchange Program, as they need to show how they would be a good ambassador for the district and the program. The program fees and expenses average roughly $1800 - $2200 per student, but the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation offers financial scholarships to help cover the cost. This year, over half of the participants received funds from the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation.

"Most of these students have not been given the opportunity to experience travel on a level like this," shared Ms. Perkins. "Being able to provide this experience to the students gives them the opportunity to change their perspective on what they think of the world outside the U.S. and people from different backgrounds and cultures."

There will be another group chosen for the 2025 – 2026 school year. Applications will be due March 2025. Lakeshore students and families will host in October 2025 and travel to Germany in March 2026. For more information, please reach out to Amy Perkins or Danielle Plichta.

ART AROUND TOWN

REACH HIGHER
Lakeshore Excellence Foundation

Twenty talented students from Lakeshore Public Schools were celebrated at the LEF-sponsored Art Around Town event, showcasing their artwork at the Curious Kids' Museum.The students' creations were displayed for one special evening, where they were recognized for their achievements. See more on pages 10-11.

LEF
LAKESHORE
EXCELLENCE
FOUNDATION

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